

From: Allan Spehar [mailto:ajspehar@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2008 8:54 PM

To: edlunds123@comcast.net; MLPAComments

Cc: wmfbernard1@sbcglobal.net

Subject: Re: orth Central Region MPA Siting - Keep Salt Point State Park Waters Open to Recreational Fishing!

The East Bay Barnacles is a long standing dive club in the bay area. We are in agreement with the Cencal position stated below by Dave Edlund. In addition, we would like to consider that fact that the area of coast line in Sonoma county most visited by our recreational divers is from Salt Point to the Gualala river mouth. This area has many access points for our divers including a couple public access points in Sea Ranch. Sea Ranch not only is a place to dive for us but many rent homes there on yearly and sometimes twice yearly for vacations and abalone diving. These vacations will cease in the event of closing this area to fishing and abalone take. Many divers focus there fishing and diving in the area mentioned for both reasons of kayak access and no large ports for boat access. This is a great area that many generations have enjoyed and spent much of your time in and we would be greatly saddened of it's closure to fishing.

On thing not mentioned in the good points about the lack of visibility as a comparison between Point Lobos and Salt Point is the rougher conditions. In general, the divable days are much less just because of the rougher ocean on the north coast. The visibility or lack there of is enough to unfortunately stop the dream of Salt Point being a north coast Point Lobos. Underwater photographers and sightseers will not flock to this location in numbers and closing this area for this reason is a smoke screen or just the supporters of this dream are naive of these facts.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Allan Spehar

E.B.B.

----- Original Message -----

From: "edlunds123@comcast.net" <edlunds123@comcast.net>

To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Cc: wmfbernard1@sbcglobal.net

Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2008 6:04:59 PM

Subject: orth Central Region MPA Siting - Keep Salt Point State Park Waters Open to Recreational Fishing!

The Cencal Skindivers, one of the largest recreational consumptive dive organizations in Northern California supports keeping "all" of Salt Point waters open to recreational fishing. We believe that recreational ocean "access" at State Point is extremely important as we have only a limited number of inexpensive access spots along the whole Sonoma coast to launch kayaks, our preferred transportation for nearshore fishing. Our

divers enjoy launching at Gerstle Cove, Stump Beach and North Fisk Mill and fishing the Northern Salt Point waters which include all of Fisk Mill Cove and Horseshoe Cove

On the first round of MLPA proposals for the North Central Region, only draft proposals number #2 and #3 have satisfactory MPA designs for the waters off Salt Point State Park.

We have read comments from the California Departments of Parks of Recreation about their desire to make Salt Point State Park waters a Reserve and they liken the diving possibilities to that of Point Lobos Reserve. Our divers are very familiar with Point Lobos waters and Salt Point waters and Salt Point is "no" Point Lobos. One of the compelling aspects for sightseeing divers at Point Lobos is its high visibility waters which typically range from 10-40 feet. The typical vis at Salt Point is more in the range of 3-12 feet and many days are "braille" diving. All the wishing in the world will not change the water visibility conditions of the north coast off Salt Point.

Best Regards,

**Dave Edlund
Chair of Cencal Skindivers
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95032**